

Public Comment for May 24, 2023

Dr. Karla Kornegay, MBA

I only wanted to share some information on Charter Government since our elected officials have not yet done so. Transparency is important. This effort can't be fairly accomplished as the Charter is being formed and written. Only a few stand to gain from this form of Government. Creating this form of Government without community input (initially and not during the creating) only portrays a lack of transparency, integrity and fairness by leadership. This is an ongoing issue that needs to stop for the good of all of the people in the County and not just one race or one entity.

### **Home Rule**

Home rule refers to the legal power of local government units to govern themselves without interference from higher levels of government. It is a system that grants significant autonomy to localities, allowing them to create their laws, regulations, and policies based on their unique needs and circumstances.

With that, home rule can also lead to fragmentation or inconsistency in policy across different jurisdictions. Additionally, some municipalities may lack the resources or expertise necessary to handle certain issues effectively without support from higher levels of government. Ultimately, whether home rule is beneficial or not depends on its impact on local governance and autonomy.

### **Some Pros of Charter Government:**

**Local Control:** This only works if we have honest people on the Charter Board. Home Rule grants local communities the power to govern themselves and make decisions that are tailored to their specific needs and priorities. This allows for greater autonomy and flexibility in addressing local issues, as the decisions are made by those who are most familiar with the community's unique circumstances.

1. **Responsive Governance:** This only works if we have honest people on the Charter Board. Right now, we don't truly have a consistent, responsive government amongst our elected officials so how will this work? With Home Rule, decision-making becomes more responsive to the needs and desires of the local population. Local officials are directly accountable to the residents they serve, which can lead to more efficient and effective governance. This system allows for quicker responses to emerging challenges and opportunities, ensuring that local communities can adapt to changing circumstances.
2. **Promotes Civic Engagement:** Some of our elected officials and leaders are driving divide in the County so how will this work? Home Rule encourages civic engagement and participation by empowering local residents to actively contribute to the decision-making process. It fosters a sense of ownership and responsibility among community members, as they have a direct say in shaping policies that impact their daily lives. This can lead to increased civic pride and a stronger sense of community.

3. **Tailored Solutions:** This only works if we have honest people on the Charter Board. Home Rule enables communities to develop and implement solutions that are specifically tailored to their unique needs and circumstances. Local officials can take into account the local culture, history, and socioeconomic factors when making decisions, resulting in more effective and targeted policies. This flexibility allows for experimentation and innovation at the local level, which can lead to successful models that can be replicated in other areas.
4. **Fosters Diversity:** This only works if we have honest people on the Charter Board and there is already racism and harassment within the Government body so how will this work? Home Rule recognizes and respects the diversity of communities within a larger governing structure. It allows for the accommodation of different perspectives, values, and priorities, as decisions are made by those who are directly affected by them. This promotes inclusivity and ensures that the interests of minority groups or marginalized populations are considered and represented in the governance process.

#### Some Cons of Charter Government:

1. **Inconsistent Policies:** Home Rule can lead to variations in policies and regulations between different local jurisdictions. This lack of uniformity can create challenges for businesses and individuals operating across multiple regions, as they may need to navigate through a patchwork of different rules and regulations. Inconsistencies in policies can also result in inefficiencies and hinder coordination on regional or national issues.
2. **Potential for Fragmentation:** Home Rule may result in the fragmentation of power and resources, leading to disparities between different local communities. Some regions may have more resources and capacity to govern effectively, while others may struggle due to limited resources or inadequate expertise. This can exacerbate socioeconomic inequalities and create disparities in the quality of public services and infrastructure.
3. **Duplication of Efforts:** With Home Rule, each local jurisdiction has the authority to develop and implement its own policies and programs. This can result in duplication of efforts, as multiple communities may invest resources in addressing similar issues independently. Duplication can lead to inefficiencies, increased administrative costs, and a lack of coordination in addressing regional or interconnected challenges.
4. **Potential for Inconsistent Standards:** Home Rule can lead to variations in standards and regulations across different localities. This can create confusion and challenges for individuals and businesses that operate across jurisdictional boundaries, as they need to navigate through different sets of rules and regulations. Inconsistent standards may also hinder the effective delivery of public services and compromise the achievement of common goals.
5. **Risk of Parochialism:** Home Rule may increase the risk of parochialism, where local officials prioritize the interests of their immediate constituency over broader regional or national concerns. This can hinder cooperation and collaboration between different

jurisdictions, making it challenging to address common issues that require collective action. Parochialism may also lead to the neglect or disregard of the interests of minority groups or marginalized populations who may lack strong representation at the local level.